

# County of Santa Clara

## Public Health Department

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### **Update: American Airlines Passengers Evaluated for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in San Jose, CA**

SAN JOSE, CA – Five passengers identified by flight personnel on American Airlines Flight #128 (from Tokyo) as possible suspected SARS cases have been determined not to meet the case definition for the disease.

Two patients were ruled out by Assistant Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith of the Santa Clara County Public Health Department at the airport. Three patients were transported to the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose, California, where they were evaluated and determined not to meet the case definition for SARS. All three patients were discharged from the hospital.

Because no passengers were diagnosed with SARS, no passengers or crew members were exposed to the disease on the flight.

Specific conditions that must be present to meet the case definition of SARS are:

- **History of travel to Hong Kong; People's Republic of China; Hanoi, Vietnam; or Singapore within ten days of symptom onset; or**
- **Close contact with persons with respiratory illness having the above travel history. Close contact includes having cared for, having lived with, or having had direct contact with respiratory secretions and body fluids of a person with SARS; and**
- **Fever (>38° C or 100.4° F);**

And one or more signs or symptoms of respiratory illness including:

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or abnormal chest x-ray

Anyone who has traveled recently to the regions identified and has the symptoms above should report to their physician. Santa Clara County Physicians should report any suspected case of SARS to Disease Prevention & Control at 408-885-4214. Additional reporting information has been included in the clinical guidelines.

SARS is an atypical respiratory illness recently reported in persons in several nations in certain regions of Asia. Seven suspected cases have been identified to date in Santa Clara County.